

## MOTHERS DEMAND THE PENNY LUNCHES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Support Evening World by  
Asking Action by City Au-  
thorities at Once.

The fight of The Evening World to secure "penny lunches" in the city's schools has won the support of New York mothers, 200 of whom, representing the Queensboro League of Mothers' Club, to-day sent to the Board of Education and the Board of Estimate, a resolution asking for the re-establishment of the lunches.

This action on the part of the mothers of New York school children is the first concerted move to be made since it became evident that the much desired school lunches had not been provided for in the school appropriation for 1920.

The resolution was approved by the unanimous vote of the Mothers' Club, which met Saturday at the Hotel Pennsylvania. To-day the officers of this organization are taking steps to link their efforts with those of the National Child Health Organization in having immediate action on the part of the Board of Education for the continuation of the lunch programme. Sally Lucas Joan, national director of field work for this organization, urged the mothers of the Queensboro Club at the meeting to lend their individual co-operation by writing to the school and city authorities.

Mrs. Joan deplored the "apparent technical error" made by the Board of Education in its failure to present the school lunch item in its budget for 1920, which failure prevented the making of an appropriation for carrying on the school lunch programme next year.

COMPTROLLER CRAIG NOT IN A  
HAPPY MOOD.

If the school lunches that were discontinued in the various schools last June are to be revived and those now being served in two schools are to be continued next year, the avenue for this purpose must be obtained by special provision. This became evident to-day in a statement made by Comptroller Charles L. Craig of the Board of Estimate. He said that a regularly constituted appropriation for lunches had not been made in the school budget for 1920. "In condition," he said, "in due to the fact that the Board of Education withdrew the application until such time as it knew that under the provisions of the law no appropriation could be made."

"The law provides that all items of the new budget must be submitted before the 25th of October, with an exception," Mr. Craig said. "This exception has reference to the emergency budget, which is made up of purely unforeseen requirements that arise from time to time after the approval of the regular budget." This

is known to the board, and it had all the time from January, 1919, to include in the budget the provision for school lunches.

"In a nutshell, it is a question of whether the deliberate omission on the part of the Board of Education to specify an appropriation for school lunches for 1920, a subject they were perfectly familiar with, creates an emergency within the meaning of the education laws which would authorize an emergency appropriation by the Board of Estimate."

"It may be a case of working a great hardship on the board, but it can be way be construed as an emergency, and therefore an appropriation cannot be made," concluded the Comptroller.

While the Comptroller spoke in favor of the school lunch plan he said he did not wish to express a direct opinion on it. He added that only \$4,075 of the current appropriation had been expended so far, but that at the end of the year any amount remaining would revert to the general tax fund used to pay off the tax deficit and could not be used in 1920.

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